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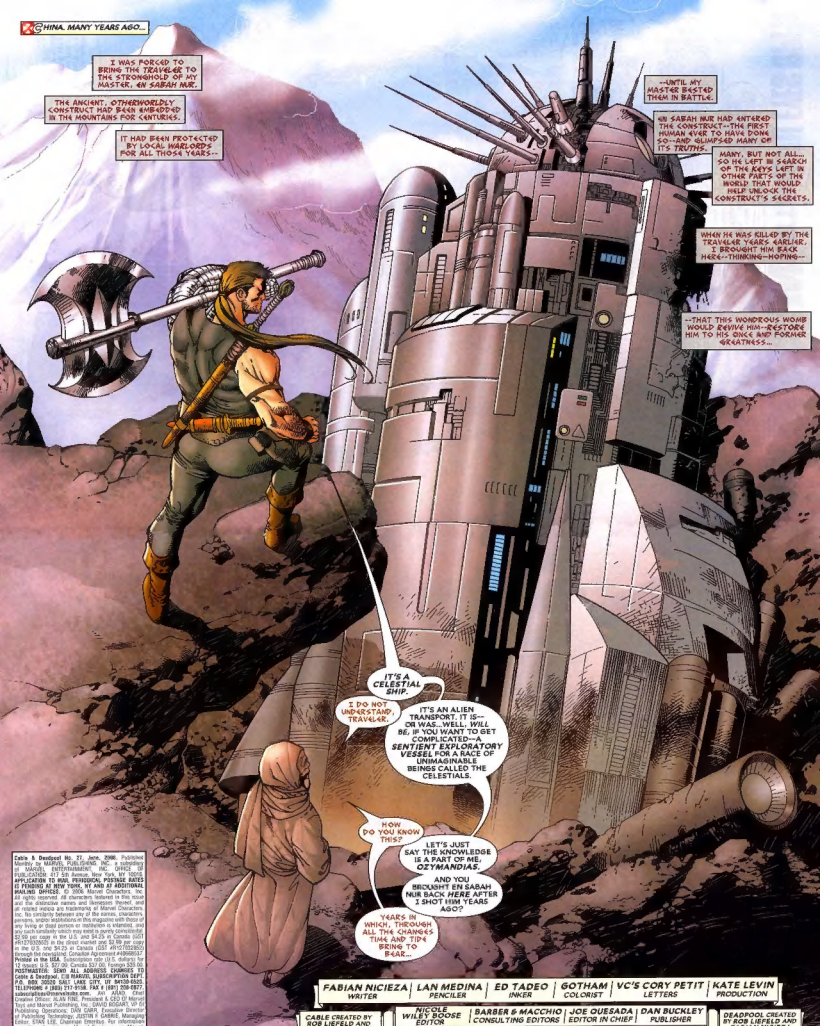
BLOOD OF APOCALYPSE PREQUEL!


CHINA. MANY YEARS AGO...
I WAS FORCED TO BRING THE TRAVELER TO THE STRONGHOLD OF MY MASTER, EN SABAH NUR.
THE ANCIENT, OTHERWORLDLY CONSTRUCT HAD BEEN EMBEDDED IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR CENTURIES.
IT HAD BEEN PROTECTED BY LOCAL WARLORDS FOR ALL THOSE YEARS--
--UNTIL MY MASTER BESTED THEM IN BATTLE.
EN SABAH NUR HAD ENTERED THE CONSTRUCT--THE FIRST HUMAN EVER TO HAVE DONE SO--AND GLIMPSED MANY OF ITS TRUTHS.
MANY, BUT NOT ALL... SO HE LEFT IN SEARCH OF THE KEYS LEFT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD THAT WOULD HELP UNLOCK THE CONSTRUCT'S SECRETS.
WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY THE TRAVELER YEARS EARLIER, I BROUGHT HIM BACK HERE--THINKING--HOPING--
--THAT THIS WONDROUS WOMB WOULD REVIVE HIM--RESTORE HIM TO HIS SIZE AND FORMER GREATNESS...
IT'S A CELESTIAL SHIP.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, TRAVELER.
IT'S AN ALIEN TRANSPORT. IT IS--OR WAS...WELL, WILL BE. IF YOU WANT TO GET COMPLICATED--A SENTIENT EXPLORATORY VESSEL FOR A RACE OF UNIMAGINABLE BEINGS CALLED THE CELESTIALS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
LET'S JUST SAY THE KNOWLEDGE IS A PART OF ME, OZYMANDIAS.
AND YOU BROUGHT EN SABAH NUR BACK...HERE AFTER I SHOT HIM YEARS AGO?
YEARS IN WHICH, THROUGH ALL THE CHANGES TIME AND TIDE BRING TO BEAR...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CABLE CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND LOUISE SIMONSON

DEADPOOL CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND FABIAN NICIEZA

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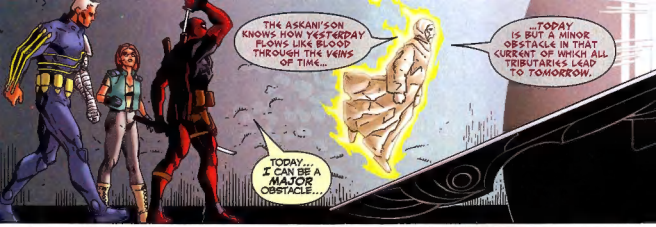
...YOU HAVE GONE UNCHANGED.
MUST BE MY MOISTURIZER...
HE WAS AN ODD MAN. AT ONCE SELF-INDULGENT, OVERLY SERIOUS AND FRIGHTENING IN HIS BEARING...
...WHILE AT OTHER TIMES, FLIPPANT AND CASUAL IN REGARD TO THE MOST ASTONISHING THINGS.
HE BORE WEAPONS MADE OF METALS UNSEEN BY MANKIND...
SFESHUK
...BUT WIELDED THEM WITH A BARBARIC SKILL THAT ONLY SEEMED CAPABLE OF THRIVING IN THAT TIME.
HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE CONSTRUCT, SWALLOWED BY DARKNESS.
I HAD BEEN INSIDE THAT NIGHTMARE ONCE BEFORE... IT HAD CHANGED ME SO THAT I COULD CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD MY MASTER...

...I SWORE I WOULD NEVER GO BACK INSIDE AGAIN.
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST WAS MY MASTER'S CREED.
IN MY FEAR, I THOUGHT...
...LET HIM PROVE FIT...
EN SABAH NUR...?
TRAVELER?
I MUST THANK YOU... FOR HAVING SHOWN ME THE WAY.
BECAUSE OF YOU...I HAVE BEEN REAWAKENED...I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT MUCH BY THIS *MONOLITH*...AND WE HAVE FOUND...MUCH COMMON GROUND...

YOUR VERY UNIQUE "BLOOD" PROVIDED ME A NEW CHANCE AT LIFE--
--AND THE MEANS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE INTELLIGENCE BEATING BEHIND THESE PULSING WALLS!
YES...BUT THE VERY THING ALLOWING YOU TO TALK WITH THIS ALIEN SHIP--
SHVUMM
CHANK
CHANK
WHRRR
--MY TECHNO-ORGANICS--
--WILL ALSO LET ME--
--TALK TO THE SHIP AS WELL!
SHMKK

AKKABA. TODAY.
NO, I'M NOT.
YES, YOU ARE!
WADE, I'M NOT BEING MIND-CONTROLLED.
YOU'RE A CLONE?
NO.
AN EVIL ALTERNATE FUTURE TIMELINE VERSION OF YOURSELF...AH. WAIT--NO BOATER... CRAP!
I AM ME. I AM FINE. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
EXACTLY HOW DOES NOT WANTING TO STOP THE REBIRTH OF A GENOCIDAL FORCE OF NATURE GIVE US ANY CONFIDENCE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
HE WAS ALWAYS...AN ODD MAN...
BECAUSE ENSURING THIS RESURRECTION GUARANTEES I CAN SAVE THIS WORLD.
AND THE ABSOLUTE BEST PART IS THAT HE REALLY BELIEVES IT!
NO, THE ABSOLUTE BEST PART IS THAT HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT!


THE ASKANI'SON KNOWS HOW YESTERDAY FLOWS LIKE BLOOD THROUGH THE VEINS OF TIME...
...TODAY IS BUT A MINOR OBSTACLE IN THAT CURRENT OF WHICH ALL TRIBUTARIES LEAD TO TOMORROW.
TODAY... I CAN BE A MAJOR OBSTACLE...

NO, WADE, WHAT OZYMANDIAS IS BOILING IT DOWN TO IS, "TRUST ME, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING."
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH? WELL, OF COURSE, AN OFFER OF CORN DOGS AND MOUNTAIN DEW WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!
OOH, IS THERE DEW?

I'M RANTING A BIT, AREN'T I?

WAIT UP!

WOW. IT'S LIKE WILLY WONKA...WILL IF WONKA WERE DRACULA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY WAS AN ABATTOIR...
OKAY, WAIT. LET'S BACK OFF ON THE WHOLE WHY FOR A SECOND AND LET ME ASK ABOUT THE HOW.
YOU FOUGHT APOCALYPSE--- DESTROYED HIS BODY, BUT HIS SOUL MERGED WITH THAT OF YOUR FATHER, CYCLOPS---
-THEN TO FREE CYCLOPS, YOU ERADICATED THE SOUL OF APOCALYPSE, SCATTERING IT ACROSS TIME AND SPACE... RIGHT?

ISN'T EXPOSITORY DIALOGUE INFORMATIVE AND FUN?
THE ASKANI'SON UNDERSTANDS...
...HE HAS KNOWN ALL ALONG...
...HOW THE FITTEST SHALL SURVIVE.
SO YOU CLONE HIM FROM A SINGLE CELL? AGAIN AND AGAIN? IS THAT IT?
APOCALYPSE HAS SURVIVED ACROSS THE AGES THROUGH MANY MEANS. AT TIMES, HIS SENTIENT ESSENCE HAS TAKEN ON NEW HOST SHELLS.
WHEN HIS BODY REMAINED RELATIVELY INTACT, HIS CORPSE OR HUSK HAS BEEN PLACED IN REGENERATIVE CHRYSALIS CHAMBERS.
I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO BODY OR "SENTIENT ESSENCE" LEFT...
BUT HIS BLOOD WAS SPILLED. BLOOD THAT OZYMANDIAS SAVED...AND THANKS TO ME...

SO LONG AS A SINGLE DROP OF APOCALYPSE'S BLOOD REMAINS, HE LIVES!
BECAUSE OF YOU...
HEY, WAIT, I ACTUALLY GET IT-- THE TECHNO-ORGANIC CELLS IN HIS BLOOD-- WILL REWRITE ANYTHING IT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH, SO--
--YOU DUMP A BUNCHA FLESH N' GUTS N' ENTRAILS N' BONES N' DARK MEAT N' CELERY INTO A BIG STEW-- PRESTOCOGIMAGIC...
IF I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOU IMMORTAL--
THE PAST...

--THEN THE LEAST I COULD DO IS MAKE YOU SPEND ETERNITY FAR AWAY FROM HERE!
VWHAAAAAAAAAAR
CHIK
WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF TOMORROW FAR BETTER THAN YOU DO...
...BODYSLIDE BY ONE!
WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THE MASTER--?
IS GOING ON A LONG TRIP...
GRRRMMMM

BWATHROOMMM!
IT'S MY FAULT. I NEVER KNEW... NEVER COULD HAVE KNOWN...
I TRAVELED TO LEARN ALL I COULD ABOUT HIM... TO SEE HOW HE COULD EVER BE STOPPED... IN MY TIME...

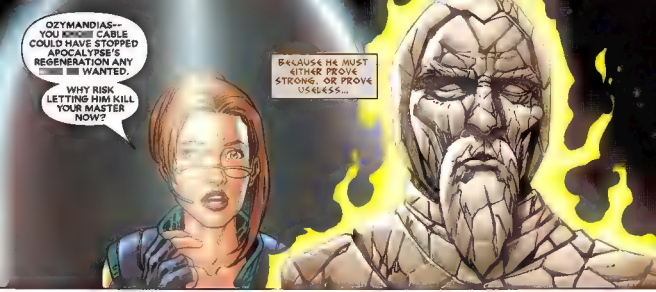
...AND ALL ALONG, MY COMING [redacted] IS THE VERY THING THAT CREATED HIM.
MY BLOOD. MY FAULT. FOREVER...
FOREVER? DOES THAT MEAN EN SABAH NUR WILL RETURN?
NO...
...APOCALYPSE WILL...
SO MY GREAT BIG SECRET [redacted] OUT. HE LIVES--HE KILLS--HE DIES AND LIVES AGAIN TO KILL ALL OVER AGAIN...
...HE'S DONE IT FOR THOUSANDS [redacted] YEARS AND HE'LL DO IT FOR THOUSANDS MORE...
...ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
TODAY...
SO THEN HOW IS LETTING HIM COME BACK NOW WORTH IT?
NATE, MAKE ME UNDERSTAND THIS, 'CAUSE IT'S MESSED UP EVEN FOR YOU.
WADE--DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID--
OH, STUPID LIKE [redacted] BLOWING HIM AWAY NOW BEFORE HE WAKES UP?

HE NEEDS TO LIVE AGAIN, SO THAT HE CAN DIE AGAIN.
OH. WELL, WHEN YOU EXPLAIN IT THAT WAY, SURE IT MAKES SENSE...
HOLY WES CRAVEN-- THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!
EVERY... TIME...I SEE YOU...SON OF TOMORROW...
...YOU ALLY YOURSELF WITH [redacted] AND LESSER BEINGS...
...DEMEANING THE PURITY OF WHAT YOU ALWAYS WERE...
CONGRATULATIONS-- ?HAAK--YOU MAKE ME-- HFFIT--LOOK LIKE [redacted] PITT--
YOU LET IT TALK?

YOU KIDDING--? CAN'T GET ME TO STOP TALKING!
BUT WATCH THIS, FIFTY BULLETS TO THE FACE WILL SHUT YOU UP!
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
MASTER-- RISE!
UNTIL YOU CAN PROVE FITTEST, THE ASKANI'SON CAN COMMAND YOUR LEGIONS!
SO THAT'S WHERE IT STANDS, APOCALYPSE...YOUR EARLY BIRTH LEAVES YOU IN A WEAKENED STATE...
...AND I CAN ORDER YOUR OWN DARK RIDERS TO CUT YOU DOWN!
I AM NOT... WEAKENED, CABLE...I AM ARISEN!
AND I AM FULLY PREPARED TO CRUSH ANY AND ALL WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THIS CLAIM!

MAN, THESE GUYS CHANGE SIDES MORE THAN A [redacted] CANDIDATE...
IRENE--I'LL KEEP YOU PROTECTED IN A GRAVIMETRIC SHELL--DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH--
I'M TOO PETRIFIED TO MOVE.
YOU HAVE CHANGED. YOUR TELEKINESIS AND TELEPATHY... GONE...?
YOU HAVE CREATED SUBSTITUTES FOR THOSE GIFTS THROUGH... TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS...
YOU... ADAPT...YOU ALWAYS... ADAPT...
THWUMM

BRRRMM
I GOTTA ADMIT, CANNON FODDER IS A LOT MORE FUN WHEN IT YELPS AND SQUEALS AND WRITHES IN AGONY...
OH, WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BOSS? YEAH, YOU SHOULD BE...
DON'T PUSH TOO HARD, WADE.
APOCALYPSE IS, ALWAYS HAS BEEN [redacted] ALWAYS WILL BE THE SECOND MOST DANGEROUS THING ALIVE.
IT JUST SO HAPPENS...
...THAT I'M THE FIRST.


OZYMANDIAS--YOU [redacted] CABLE COULD HAVE STOPPED APOCALYPSE'S REGENERATION ANY [redacted] WANTED.
WHY RISK LETTING HIM KILL YOUR MASTER NOW?
BECAUSE HE MUST EITHER PROVE STRONG, OR PROVE USELESS...

MORE TELLING...WHY DID YOU NOT KILL ME... WHEN YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY?
YOU ARE [redacted] TURNING TO A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD.
HOMO [redacted] HAS BEEN DECIMATED.

WE NEED SOMETHING DRAMATIC AND URGENT TO BRING US TOGETHER.
AND I AM TO BE THAT FOCAL POINT? YOU WOULD [redacted] WHAT I COULD DO...?

I'M NOT THINKING OF THE RISK, BUT THE REWARD.

YOU THINK I WILL FAIL... BUT REUNITE THE MUTANT CAUSE.
BUT EVEN SHOULD THAT HAPPEN...I WILL ARISE AGAIN...
AND AGAIN... FOREVERMORE... THANKS TO YOU.

I'VE COME TO ACCEPT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
IN ORDER TO STOP YOU, I HAVE TO STOP WHAT YOU *STAND* FOR. WHAT YOU *REPRESENT*...
...THE SURVIVAL OF THE FIT OVER THE WEAK.
WITH THIS BLOOD... I CAN MAKE *EVERY-ONE* FIT.
SVIKK
MAKE EVERYONE *STRONG*.
AND EVENTUALLY...YOU WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO MATTER...
THIS IS REALLY NOT GOOD...
I WOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. BUT I'M AFRAID I'D GET TURNED INTO THE SPLEEN OF APOCALYPSE OR SOMETHING...
*YOU WILL REGRET LETTING ME LIVE, TRAVELER!*
*YOU WILL REGRET THE DISRESPECT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME!*
*I WILL SOON BE STRONG AGAIN...*

GOOD. THE WORLD NEEDS YOU TO BE STRONG, APOCALYPSE ...
...IT'S ALWAYS HELPED *US* BE *STRONGER*...
THAT WAS ALL INCREDIBLY *VIRILE*, NATE--BUT WAS IT SMART?
IF HE KILLS TEN, TWENTY, A THOUSAND--THAT'S ALL ON YOUR BACK.
IRENE...WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU FOR SO LONG?
I HAVE LIVED AND LOVED AND CRIED AND DIED ACROSS *THOUSANDS* AND *THOUSANDS* OF YEARS GONE BY AND STILL TO COME.
I'VE SEEN APOCALYPSE KILL *BILLIONS*.
*AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS ON MY BACK.*"
THAT'S WHY I KEEP FACING FORWARD...

...HUMANITY WILL SUFFER WHEN HOMO SUPERIOR RISES FROM THE ASHES...
PERHAPS YOU CAN PROVE FITTER THAN THE TRAVELER COULD EVER IMAGINE... PERHAPS NOW, MORE THAN EVER...
...MUTANTKIND DOES NOT NEED A CULLING TO MAKE IT STRONGER...
...WE NEED A LEADER...
HAVING RISEN FROM THE NUTRIENT BATH PREMATURELY, MASTER--
--YOU WILL NEED TO SPEND SOME TIME IN A REJUVENATING CHRYSALIS CHAMBER.
IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF WEEKS...AND WHEN I AM FULLY REBORN... THEN...THEN...
HMMMM
AND THEN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN...
...THE TRAVELER WILL STAY ONE STEP AHEAD ON THE JOURNEY...

PROLOGUE.
ROMAN
BAR
MEXICO CITY.
WEEKS LATER...
HE HAS MADE STEADY PROGRESS IN USURPING CONTROL OF RUMEKISTAN.
DEADPOOL IS INVOLVED. THAT'S NEVER GOOD.
POSITIVE, MR. BRIDGE.
IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEST INTERESTS TO SEE THIS INCURSION END NOW.
AND FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, IT WILL.
DEFINE RIGHT.
CHIK KLIK
FOR THE CHANCE TO NAIL DEADPOOL AND TO STOP CABLE...WE'D BE WILLING TO PAY YOU!
NEXT: DOMINO VS. DEADPOOL! AN ASSASSINATION! AND GUESS WHO'S COMING TO RUMEKISTAN...